

Message Text

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ORIGIN PA-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 PRS-01 SSO-00 CCO-00 /019 R

DRAFTED BY PA/M:KFITZPATRICK:KMF

APPROVED BY PA/M:REHECKLINGER

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, MNUC, UR, US

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT MURREY MARDER BY-LINER, WASHINGTON POST, AUGUST 11, HEADED "SOVIETS DENY A-BLAST VIOLATED ACCORD WITH U.S."

2. THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON DENIED YESTERDAY THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAS CONDUCTED UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS "IN VIOLATION OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE U.S.S.R. AND THE UNITED STATES."

3. THAT STATEMENT WAS MADE IN THE FORM OF A DENIAL OF AN ALLEGATION BY COLUMNISTS ROWLAND EVANS AND ROBERT NOVAK, PUBLISHED LAST THURSDAY, THAT TWO SOVIET NUCLEAR BLASTS WERE "WELL OVER" THE AGREED LIMIT OF 150 KILOTONS.

4. ON THE SAME DAY, THE WHITE HOUSE ALSO QUESTIONED THE SIZE OF THE SOVIET EXPLOSIONS. PRESIDENTIAL PRESS SECRETARY RON NESSEN SAID U.S. SCIENTISTS HAD NOT YET

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DETERMINED THE EXACT SIZE OF THE SOVIET BLASTS, ON JULY 4

AND JULY 29. NESSEN SAID THEY WERE IN A RANGE THAT
"STRADDLES 150 KILOTONS."

5. PRESIDENT FORD, IN AN INTERVIEW WITH NEWS AGENCIES
LAST WEEKEND, SAID AMERICAN EXPERTS REPORTED THE SOVIET
EXPLOSIONS AT "SOMEWHERE BETWEEN 100 KILOTONS AND 300
KILOTONS."

6. U.S. SCIENTISTS "HAVE NOT MADE A DEFINITIVE DECISION,"
THE PRESIDENT SAID. HE ADDED THAT "WHEN THEY MAKE THAT
REPORT TO ME, I WILL MAKE THE DECISION AS TO WHAT PUBLIC
ANNOUNCEMENT WE WILL MAKE."

7. "IT CAN'T BE A VIOLATION UNTIL THE TREATY IS AGREED
TO AND RATIFIED," FORD SAID. "THE OTHER QUESTION IS
WHETHER OR NOT IT IS A VIOLATION (PRESUMABLY MEANING A
VIOLATION OF THE SPIRIT OF THE TREATY), AND THE SCIENTISTS
HAVE NOT YET MADE THAT DETERMINATION."

8. REPORTERS TRAVELING WITH SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY A.
KISSINGER LAST THURSDAY IN IRAN WERE TOLD THAT THE SOVIET
EXPLOSIONS MAY HAVE VIOLATED THE SPIRIT OF THE NEW TREATIES
THAT ARE AWAITING SENATE RATIFICATION.

9. ONE TREATY, SIGNED IN MOSCOW ON JULY 3, 1974, LIMITS
UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR WEAPONS TESTS, AND IS KNOWN AS THE
THRESHOLD TEST BAN TREATY (TTB TREATY). THE SECOND,
LINKED TO IT AND SIGNED LAST MAY 28, IS KNOWN AS THE TREATY
ON UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES
(PNE TREATY).

10. REPORTERS ACCOMPANYING KISSINGER WERE INFORMED THAT
HE ASSUMED THE 150 KILOTON (EQUIVALENT TO A BLAST OF
150,000 TONS OF TNT) LIMIT THAT APPLIES TO INDIVIDUAL
EXPLOSIONS IN BOTH TREATIES WOULD BE OBSERVED BY BOTH
SIDES PENDING RATIFICATION OF THE TREATIES.

11. PRESIDENT FORD SUBMITTED THE TWO INTERLOCKED TREATIES
TO THE SENATE ON JULY 9. BOTH ARE CONTROVERSIAL, AND IT
IS UNLIKELY THAT THEY WILL BE ACTED ON IN THIS SESSION OF
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CONGRESS.

12. THE UNUSUAL STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE SOVIET EMBASSY
YESTERDAY, HOWEVER, MAY HAVE HAD A LARGER OBJECTIVE THAN
EXPRESSING A SOVIET POSITION ON THE UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR
BLAST DISPUTE. THE EMBASSY KNOWS THAT THE FORD ADMINIS-
TRATION IS PRESENTLY ENGAGED IN REEXAMINING THE U.S. POSI-
TION IN THE STALEMATED NUCLEAR STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION

TALKS (SALT), TO TRY TO SEEK A BELATED SALT ACCORD BEFORE THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.

13. THERE ARE INTERNAL DIFFERENCES ON SALT IN THE FORD ADMINISTRATION, AS WELL AS DEEP DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PRESIDENT FORD AND REPUBLICAN CHALLENGER RONALD REAGAN OVER WHAT A SALT AGREEMENT SHOULD CONTAIN. THE DISPUTE

OVER THE RECENT SOVIET UNDERGROUND TESTS IS PART OF THE LARGER SALT CONTROVERSY.

14. THE SOVIET EMBASSY STATEMENT ISSUED YESTERDAY DID NOT DISTINGUISH BETWEEN WEAPONS TESTS AND PEACEFUL UNDERGROUND EXPLOSIONS, WHICH LEFT SOME QUESTIONS UNANSWERED, BECAUSE U.S. OFFICIALS SAID THEY HAVE NOT DETERMINED THE CATEGORY OF THE JULY 4 AND JULY 29 EXPLOSIONS. THE FIRST

WAS SAID TO BE AT A KNOWN WEAPONS TEST SITE.

15. ANOTHER COMPLICATION, WHICH RECENTLY CAME TO PUBLIC ATTENTION, IS THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO CONGRESS ON THE WEAPONS TEST AGREEMENT STATES THAT THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION HAVE AGREED THAT UNCERTAINTIES IN PREDICTING WEAPONS YIELDS "MAY RESULT IN SLIGHT, UNINTENDED BREACHES OF THE 150 KILOTON THRESHOLD."

L6. THEREFORE, THE DEPARTMENT SAID, IT WAS AGREED THAT "ONE OR TWO SLIGHT, UNINTENDED BREACHES PER YEAR WOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED A VIOLATION OF THE TREATY" ALTHOUGH THEY "WOULD BE A CAUSE FOR CONCERN," WARRANTING CONSULTATIONS.

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17. NO MENTION OF THAT ESCAPE CLAUSE WAS MADE IN THE SOVIET EMBASSY STATEMENT YESTERDAY, HOWEVER. IT SAID:

18. "THE EMBASSY OF THE U.S.S.R. IN THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO STATE THAT THERE IS NO GROUND AT ALL FOR THE ALLEGATION CONTAINED IN THE ARTICLE BY ROWLAND EVANS AND ROBERT NOVAK, PUBLISHED IN THE AMERICAN PRESS ON AUG. 5, THAT UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS WERE CONDUCTED IN THE SOVIET UNION ON JULY 4 AND JULY 29 IN VIOLATION OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE U.S.S.R. AND THE UNITED STATES TO THE EFFECT THAT DURING THE PERIOD BEFORE THE TREATY ON THE LIMITATION OF UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR WEAPONS TESTS OF JULY 3, 1974, ENTERS INTO FORCE NO EXPLOSIONS WILL BE CARRIED OUT ABOVE THE THRESHOLD SET

BY THAT TREATY.

19. "THE SOVIET UNION, AS IT HAS BEEN ALREADY STATED
ON APRIL 2, DOES NOT INTEND TO TAKE ANY ACTIONS IN-
COMPATIBLE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE TREATY, IT BEING
UNDERSTOOD THAT THE UNITED STATES ON ITS PART WILL ACT
LIKEWISE."

20. A STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN YESTERDAY WOULD SAY ONLY
THAT "WE HAVE MADE KNOWN OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD THESE EVENTS"
IN COMMUNICATION WITH THE SOVIET UNION. END TEXT. ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, PRESS COMMENTS, NUCLEAR TESTS, NUCLEAR WEAPONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE199256
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: KFITZPATRICK:KMF
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760309-0458
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760863/aaaacdcs.tel
Line Count: 180
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN PA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 APR 2004 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <03 JAN 2005 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS MATERIAL PRESS MATERIAL
TAGS: SOPN, MNUC, UR, US, WASHINGTON POST, (MARDER, MURREY)
To: SECRETARY AIRCRAFT
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006